



Chemin de CLUNY : GUYENNE - GASCOGNE

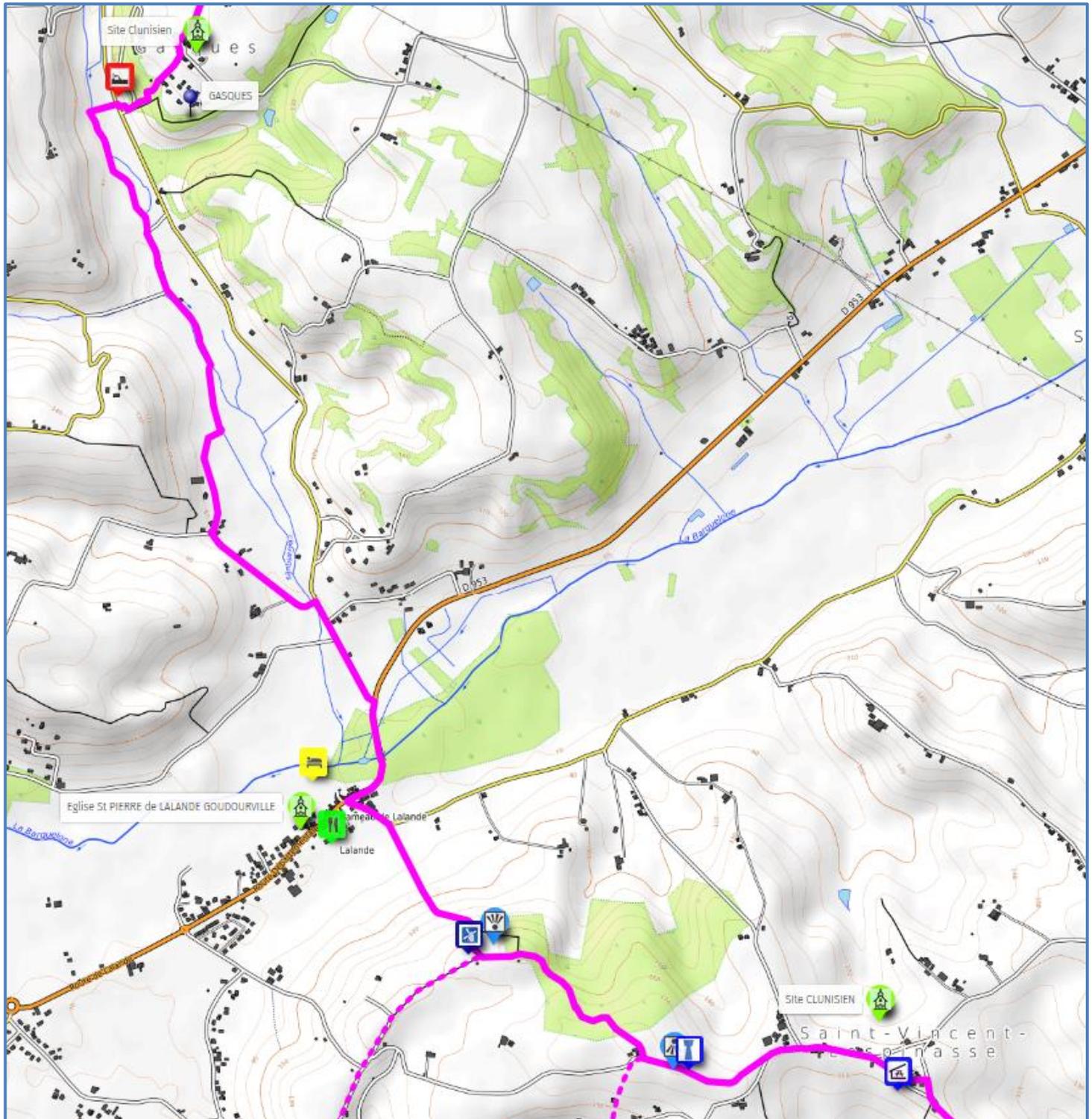


DIRECTION WEST - EAST : AGEN - MOISSAC



STAGE 3R: GASQUES – SAINT VINCENT LESPINASSE

Section length: 6.9 km Allow: 2h00mn Height difference: +145m / - 127m Difficulty: Medium



Waymarking: Red and green  

Driving distance to Gasques is 32km from Agen and 21.5 km from Moissac

Parking: Large car with picnic benches, behind the church and the Mairie.

Start point: Church (Église du Bourg)

Take a moment to appreciate the beautiful old Romanesque church, a former dependency of the Cluniac Abbey of Moissac.

From the **D46**, with the church behind you, turn left between 2 houses onto a gravel road.

Follow the road straight down between houses. It narrows alongside a house and becomes a grass track. Follow a stone wall with a chain link fence on your right. (There is a sign '**Lavoir – Fontaine**' on the fence). Continue until the end of the stone wall where you come to a narrow path and steps cut into the stone. Follow these steps down towards the 'lavoir' (former wash-house).

The path goes alongside the 'lavoir', with a picnic bench on the left. After approximately **20m** turn right down a steeply descending woodland path. At the bottom the path terminates at a road (**C1**). Turn left and almost immediately right onto the main road (**D46**). (Near a bus stop).

After about **60m**, turn left onto a grass track. Follow this track for about **100m** until you cross a concrete bridge and turn left into a small woodland track, following the stream. This track ends near another concrete bridge. Do not cross the bridge, but keep to your right and follow the tarmac road for approx. **300m**. When the road bends to the right, continue straight on into a woodland path. (Next to a sign '**Carretou**').

Continue to another concrete bridge. Cross the bridge and follow the grass track, with the stream now on your left. The track bends round to the right and then to the left towards a large wooden farm building with a solar roof. The track then becomes a tarmac road and leads into a hamlet called '**Colombier**'. In the hamlet, turn left over a small brook, near a house with a laurel hedge. Keep going on the road for approx. **500m**, until you join **the D46** (just after a small bridge). Turn right and follow the **D46** for **450m** to the T-junction of the **D953**.

Turn right and follow the road into the village of **Lalande**. In the village turn left onto the **D57**, sign-posted '**St. Vincent Lespinasse**' and '**St. Paul d'Espis**'. The road makes a bend opposite a beautiful old house with a 'pigeonnier' (dovecote). You will see an old stone windmill with no vanes at the top of the hill (locally known as the 'Peppermill').

At this point turn right up a grassy track (just before the 'end of village' sign for Lalande). This track is bordered by fields, then trees. Stay on the main path, which bends round to the right, going uphill. Eventually this arrives at the restored peppermill. *There are beautiful panoramic views over the Garonne valley.*

At this point there is a possibility of a 'variante' (alternative route) leading to St. Vincent Lespinasse via Goudourville (see itinerary No. 3 bis).

At the pepper mill turn left onto a grassy track and keep going straight on. Keep on this path which goes down and then up through woodland until you come to a farm on your right ('**Magret**'). After the farm buildings turn left.

At this point there is a possibility of a 'variante' (alternative route) leading to Gasques via Goudourville (see itinerary No. 3 bis).

After turning left near the farm, you soon pass a water tower with tiled roof on your left. The path slopes down and meets the road. Carry straight on the road towards the village of **St Vincent Lespinasse**. Take the right fork into '**Route de Malause**' towards the church. Then turn left into '**Place du Bourg**' up a steep hill. Follow the road past the church and the Marie. Proceed down the hill. Turn right on the main road near the covered former market hall, opposite the car park.

The Romanesque church of the parish of St. Vincent Lespinasse is a former Cluniac dependency.

The parish was originally part of the bishopric of Agen. One part was a dependency of the Agenais region and the other of the Quercy region. In 1278, the ecclesiastical rights of the bishopric of Agen were given over to the Benedictine Cluniac Abbey of St. Maurin.